

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2185

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: LAGOS 11626

1. PARA 3 REFTEL REPORTED COMMISSIONER GARBA'S PLANS VISIT UN (APPROXIMATELY NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 7) AND HIS HOPE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON SOME TIME DURING THAT PERIOD. IN ABSENCE OF SECRETARY, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION OFFER GARBA APPOINTMENT WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL SECRETARY WISHED SEE GARBA A SECOND TIME LAST MONTH BUT MEETING FELL THROUGH. CONVERSATION WITH SISCO NOW WOULD PROVIDE GOOD OCCASION CONTINUE DIALOGUE ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST SUCH AS ANGOLA, UPCOMING PARIS ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, JOINT COMMISSIONS, IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE FOR U.S. ENTERPRISE IN NIGERIA AND ROBINSON VISIT.

3. SISCO/GARBA MEETING WOULD ALSO PROVIDE TIMELY OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS QUESTION OF A VISIT BY SECRETARY TO NIGERIA. AS INDICATED PARA 2 REFTEL, SECRETARY'S VISIT RANKS FIRST ON GARBA'S LIST OF WAYS TO IMPROVE U.S./NIGERIAN RELATIONS. GARBA'S OWN POSITION IS HEAVILY COMMITTED TO THE VISIT, AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT AT HIGH LEVEL GAVE HIM SOMETHING TO REPORT TO HIS ASSOCIATES ON THIS MATTER, EVEN IF POSSIBILITY OF EARLY VISIT IS DIM. LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO SISCO

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FOLLOWS WITH FULLER DESCRIPTION OF GARBA'S VIEWS AND PROBLEMS IN

THIS MATTER.

4. IF MEETING WITH SISCO IS POSSIBLE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
EARLIEST POSSIBLE NOTIFICATION IN ORDER FOR US TO INFORM GARBA
PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. BEST DATES WOULD APPEAR TO BE DECEMBER
4 OR 5.
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